

§ 14.22

21 CFR Ch. I (4–1–02 Edition)

hearing before an advisory committee when the Commissioner concludes, as a matter of discretion, that it would be informative to the public.

(d) A list of advisory committee meetings will be distributed to the press by the Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs.

[44 FR 22351, Apr. 13, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 26375, June 1, 1982; 54 FR 9035, Mar. 3, 1989; 66 FR 6469, Jan. 22, 2001; 66 FR 12850, Mar. 1, 2001]

§ 14.22 Meetings of an advisory committee.

(a) No advisory committee may conduct a meeting except at the call or with the advance approval of, and with an agenda approved by, the designated Federal employee or alternate. No meeting may be held in the absence of the designated Federal employee.

(1) If any matter is added to the agenda after its publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER under § 14.20(b)(4), an attempt is to be made to inform persons known to be interested in the matter, and the change is to be announced at the beginning of the open portion of the meeting.

(2) The advisory committee meeting is to be conducted in accordance with the approved final agenda insofar as practical.

(b) Advisory committee meetings will be held at places that are reasonably accessible to the public. All advisory committee meetings will be held in Washington, DC, or Rockville, MD, or the immediate vicinity, unless the Commissioner receives and approves a written request from the advisory committee for a different location. A different location may be approved when one or more of the following applies:

(1) The total cost of the meeting to the Government will be reduced.

(2) A substantial number of the committee members will be at the location at no expense to FDA for other reasons, e.g., for a meeting of a professional association.

(3) It is a central location more readily accessible to committee members.

(4) There is a need for increased participation available at that location.

(5) The committee wishes to review work or facilities in a specific location.

(6) The committee is concerned with matters that functionally or historically occur in some other location, e.g., the Board of Tea Experts and the Science Advisory Board of the National Center for Toxicological Research will generally hold meetings in Brooklyn, NY, and in the Little Rock, AR, vicinity, respectively.

(c) Advisory committee members may, with the approval of FDA, conduct onsite visits relevant to their work.

(d) Unless the committee charter provides otherwise, a quorum for an advisory committee is a majority of the current voting members of the committee, except as provided in § 14.125(c) for TEPRSSC. Any matter before the advisory committee is to be decided by a majority vote of the voting members present at the time, except that the designated Federal official may require that any final report be voted upon by all current voting members of the committee. Any current voting member of the committee may file a separate report with additional or minority views.

(e) If space is available, any interested person may attend any portion of any advisory committee meeting which is not closed.

(f) Whenever feasible, meetings are to be held in government facilities or other facilities involving the least expense to the public. The size of the meeting room is to be reasonable, considering such factors as the size of the committee, the number of persons expected to attend a meeting, and the resources and facilities available.

(g) The Commissioner may authorize a meeting to be held by conference telephone call. For these meetings, a speaker phone will be provided in a conference room located in Washington, DC, or Rockville, MD, or the immediate vicinity, to permit public participation in open portions of the meetings, as provided in §§ 14.25 and 14.29. These meetings generally will be brief, and authorized—

(1) For the purpose of taking final votes or otherwise confirming actions taken by the committee at other meetings; or

(2) Where time does not permit a meeting to be held at a central location.

(h) Any portion of a meeting will be closed by the committee chairman only when matters are to be discussed which the Commissioner has determined may be considered in closed session under § 14.27(b). If a portion of the meeting is closed, the closed portion will be held after the conclusion of the open portion whenever practicable.

(i) Any committee member may take notes during meetings and report and discuss committee deliberations after a meeting is completed and before official minutes or a report are available, within the rules and regulations adopted by FDA and by the advisory committee with the concurrence of FDA, including all of the following:

(1) There may be no attribution of individual views expressed in a closed session or revealing of numerical votes.

(2) There may be no reporting or discussion of any particular matter if the committee or FDA specifically so directs, e.g., where deliberations are incomplete or involve a sensitive regulatory decision that requires preparation or implementation.

(3) There may be no reporting or discussion of information prohibited from public disclosure under § 14.75.

(4) Notes or minutes kept or reports prepared by a committee member have no status or effect unless adopted into the official minutes or report by the committee. It is the responsibility of each committee member to make certain that the official minutes and reports are complete and accurate and fully reflect what happened at any meeting the committee member attended.

[44 FR 22351, Apr. 13, 1979; 48 FR 40887, Sept. 12, 1983, as amended at 54 FR 9035, Mar. 3, 1989]

§ 14.25 Portions of advisory committee meetings.

An advisory committee meeting has the following portions:

(a) *The open public hearing.* Every committee meeting includes an open portion, which constitutes a public hearing during which interested persons may present relevant information or views orally or in writing. The hearing is conducted in accordance with § 14.29.

(b) *The open committee discussion.* A committee discusses any matter pending before it in an open portion of its meeting unless the meeting has been closed for that matter under § 14.27. To the maximum extent feasible, consistent with the policy expressed in § 14.27, a committee conducts its discussion of pending matters in an open portion. No public participation is permissible during this portion of the meeting except with the consent of the committee chairman.

(c) *The closed presentation of data.* Information prohibited from public disclosure under part 20 and the regulations referenced therein is presented to the committee in a closed portion of its meeting. However, if information is in the form of a summary that is not prohibited from public disclosure, the presentation is to be made in an open portion of a meeting.

(d) *The closed committee deliberations.* Deliberations about matters before an advisory committee may be held in a closed portion of a meeting only upon an appropriate determination by the Commissioner under § 14.27.

§ 14.27 Determination to close portions of advisory committee meetings.

(a) No committee meeting may be entirely closed. A portion of a meeting may be closed only in accordance with a written determination by the Commissioner under this section.

(b) The executive secretary or other designated agency employee shall prepare the initial request for a determination to close a portion of a meeting, specifying the matter(s) to be discussed during the closed portion and the reasons why the portion should be closed. The Commissioner, based upon this request and with the concurrence of the Chief Counsel, will determine whether to close a portion of a meeting. The reasons for closing a portion of a meeting will be announced in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice of the meeting under § 14.20 in accordance with the following rules:

(1) Any determination to close a portion of a meeting restricts the closing to the shortest possible time consistent with the policy in this section.